

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3630

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

USLO PEKING

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0688

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PINT AO

SUBJECT: RURAL WAR SITREP: FIGHTING BREAKS OUT IN CABINDA, ENDS
IN CARMONA

REF: LUANDA 0683

1. ACCORDING TO THE PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMAND THE FIGHTING IN
CARMONA AND OTHER NORTHERN ANGOLAN CITIES THAT STARTED JUNE 1 HAS
NOW ENDED. THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, NGOLA KABANGU (FNLA), A
PORTUGUESE GENERAL AND AN UNIDENTIFIED MPLA COMMANDER FLEW TO
CARMONA AND ARRANGED A TRUCE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS HUNDREDS
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OF WHITES IN EACH OF THE THREATENED LOCALES STREAMED INTO

PORTUGUESE ARMY BARRACKS DEMANDING PROTECTION DURING THE FIGHTING. AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL THIS WAS THE EXTENT OF PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION IN THE FIGHTING. THERE IS YET NO REPORT ON A PORTUGUESE MILITARY SPOKESMAN IN CARMONA CHARACTERIZED LIBERATION GROUP CASUALTIES THERE AS "HIGH". ONE JOURNALIST STATED HE SAW 11 DEAD AND 29 WOUNDED AT THE CARMONA HOSPITAL AND THAT A PLANE-LOAD OF MED-EVACUEES HAD LEFT FOR LUANDA. CARMONA IS WITHOUT FOOD, WATER OR POWER. THE PORTUGUESE ARMY IS FEEDING CIVILIANS ON HALF-RATIONS.

2. FIGHTING BROKE OUT BETWEEN FNLA AND MPLA IN CABINDA CITY BEFORE DAWN ON JUNE 2. IT CONTINUED UNTIL MID-DAY WHEN LOCAL OFFICIALS ARRANGED A CEASE-FIRE. HOWEVER GULF REPORTS THAT HEAVY SHOOTING RECOMMENCED AT 1000 ON JUNE 3. AGAIN THERE IS NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON WHICH GROUP IS RESPONSIBLE NOR ON CASUALTIES. MPLA HAS THE PREPONDERANCE OF MILITARY POWER IN CABINDA AND IT IS LIKELY THEY TOOK THE INITIATIVE AGAINST FNLA. NO RPT NO FIGHTING IS REPORTED NEAR THE GULF'S INSTALLATIONS AT MALEMBO, 20 MILES NORTH OF CABINDA CITY. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT FLEC, CONGOLESE OR ZAIRIAN TROOPS ARE INVOLVED.

3. ALTHOUGH INFORMATION IS STILL SKETCHY CONCERNING THE FIGHTING IN NORTHERN ANGOLA DURING THE LAST SIX DAYS, WE BELIEVE MOST OF THE ATTACKS WERE INITIATED BY MPLA TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR HOLD ON AREAS WHERE THEY HAVE THE PREPONDERANCE OF ETHNIC OR IN THE CASE OF CABINDA, MILITARY SUPPORT IN PREPARATION FOR A MILITARY SHOWDOWN WITH FNLA. WE HAVE CONFIRMATION FROM FNLA AND PORTUGUESE SOURCES THAT "THOUSANDS" OF FNLA TROOPS ARE POURING FROM ZAIRE INTO ANGOLA BUT FNLA IS BEING COY AS TO THEIR DESTINATION AND NO ONE, INCLUDING MPLA, KNOWS IF THEY WILL STOP AT BASES IN THE NORTH OR CONTINUE TO FLOW SOUTH AND ATTACK MPLA.

4. THE PROPAGANDA BATTLE HAS ACCELERATED ALONG WITH THE ACTUAL FIGHTING. ON JUNE 2 MPLA BROADCAST A BELLIGERENT COMMUNIQUE, CALLING AGAIN FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S DISMISSAL AND EXHORTING MPLA TROOPS TO "LIBERATE THE NORTH" FROM THE "IMPERIALIST LACKEYS". THE COMMUNIQUE DID NOT CONTAIN THE HERETOFORE STANDARD RITUAL CANT ABOUT ELECTIONS AND PEACEFUL PROGRESS TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE.

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